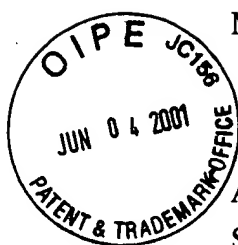


Gp 2615



MTS-3231US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: K. Yamauchi et al. : Art Unit: 2615
Serial No.: 09/821,985 : Examiner:
Filed: March 30, 2001 :
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

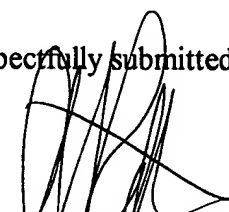
References JP H10-108178 and 11-264521 are not in the English language, but a partial English translation and English abstract thereof are attached to the copies of the references submitted herewith.

Reference JP H5-276506 is not in the English language, but corresponds to USP 5,410,350 and EP 0549813 enclosed herewith.

This information disclosure statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application. No first Official Action has yet been received and it is presumed that none has yet been mailed.

No Fee or certification is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Respectfully submitted,



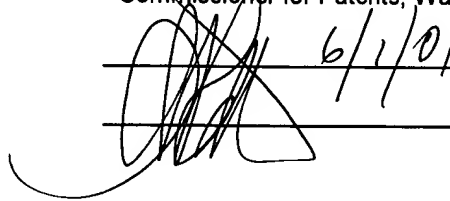
Allan Karner, Reg. No. 19,717
Attorney for Applicants

Encls.: PTO Form 1449,
Copy of (5) References
Dated: June 1, 2001

Suite 301
One Westlakes, Berwyn
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Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:



FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. MTS-3231US	SERIAL NO 09/821,985
	APPLICANT K. Yamauchi et al.	
	FILING DATE March 30, 2001	GROUP 2615

[illegible]

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Exmr Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation YES NO
		11-264521	09/28/99	Japan (with English Abstract)			
		10-108178	04/24/98	Japan (with partial English translation)			
		5-276506	10/22/93	Japan (corresponds to EP 549813 and USP 5,410,350).			
		EP 549813	07/07/93	EPO (corresponds to USP 5,410,350 and JP5-276506).			

(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered
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Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.